SPANGLISH: Puerto Rico's Expression of Retaliation Against USA's Sovereignty to

Preserve Its Identity.

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Individual Website

Process Paper: **498 Words**

Henceforth my first National History Day project--which was last year--I decided that my topic for the following year should be about my ethnic origin: Puerto Rico. I wanted to create a project for my family, and I have always been intrigued about the intricate political status of Puerto Rico. Therefore, I tried my utmost to fit Puerto Rico with this year's theme, and the communication I found to be most relevant to the theme, was Puerto Rico's language: **Spanglish**.

The first step I underwent in conducting my research was searching up *Language in Puerto Rico* on google. I gathered plenty of credible websites, watched PBS documentaries on the history of Puerto Rico, and read Puerto-Rican history books. Next, I proceeded to fill out the *2021 Theme Graphic Organizer* to synthesize my ideas and list specific areas of research. Afterwards, I inserted all of the primary and secondary sources I found apt and wrote a small blurb about what each site was about, on the *mynoodletools* website. This tool significantly helped me design my auto-navigator's sectors, since I cohesively organized my sources under different categories. To save student-composed words, I used quotations whenever possible.

I chose to do a website this year not only since I wanted to embark on the newest category added to National History Day, but chiefly because I want to expand my prowess, knowledge, and zeal in the technological field. The first thing I did when creating my project was play with features of the website so that I could adapt to the **NHD** *WebCentral Program*. Before starting to add information to the website, I read the *FAQs*, *instructional guides*, and watched every *step-by-step video* to grasp the basic function of the site. I then created each, individual page on my website, based on my research. For the aesthetic facet of my website, as

Puerto-Ricans are prominent for their flag-waving, I consistently intercalated the colors and images of the Puerto-Rican flags. I also got ideas by using the winning website projects as models.

My historical argument is that the Puerto Rican language, **Spanglish,** is the *key* to understanding Puerto Rico's cultural identity, political crisis, and resistance against Americanization. Spanglish communicates the language battle between an island and its mainland. Spanglish communicates how compulsory English integration is an inevitable part of the Puerto-Rican identity, and how Puerto Rico conquered that English imposition. Today, Puerto Rico is still a US territory--as shown by the anglicisms in **Spanglish**--but through their customs, patriotism, and preservation of language, its people feel a nation.

Therefore, the importance of my topic in history--which is language, the most common form of communication--is that opposed to how most spanish-speaking places speak uninfluenced Spanish; contrary to how most of the USA's territories have lost their native tongue at the hands of English--such as Hawaii--**Spanglish** is the idiosyncrasy of Puerto Rico. If one starts a conversation about the language of Puerto Rico, they end having a political discussion--due to Puerto Rico's relationship with the U.S.